



ARE you with us in the big campaign to place The Menace in the homes of the American Farmers? If you are, read the article on page four entitled, "Back to the Farm," and then get busy. The Menace Army has never failed in a single undertaking—its record is one of faithful service—and it is not going to fail in this campaign!

## A HEART TO HEART TALK WITH PATRIOTS WHO READ THE MENACE

By J. I. SHEPPARD.

**A**LTHOUGH I have been working with you but a few weeks, I feel that I have known each of you for years. A struggle like this, in which we face a common foe for the preservation of things dear to us all, a struggle in which each of us makes some sacrifice, great or small, for the common good, knits the hearts of men and women close in mutual understanding. A comrade in such a battle is a comrade indeed. So at a time like this, when every moment counts, there is no need for personal letters, no need for consultations. Each man and woman engaged in this campaign of defense knows what his or her place in the battle line should be. Because of these facts, this letter, which is just a heart to heart talk with you, is personal to each of you.

I want each of you to know what is being said and done at the headquarters of The Free Press Defense League just as if you were working with us here, instead of being out in the field turning the guns upon the enemy. When in January the editors and publishers of The Menace were indicted, they consulted me about their defense. Being a very busy man I had not been a close reader of The Menace so I asked them to send me the files of the paper from the beginning. I wanted to read what they had published; I wanted to know the moral as well as the legal merits of the case, before I should accept employment. In reading the files of The Menace, I came to know, as you know, that these men are engaged in a work that is absolutely necessary to the preservation of the freedom of the press, of speech, of the churches and the schools. I came to know what you already knew—that in the indictment of these men a grave wrong had been done and that the wrong was not only against them but against you and me and our country.

I told the editors and the publishers of The Menace of the need of a national organization which should defend or prosecute in all matters where the free press, free speech, or the freedom of the churches and the schools are involved. I told them that I would direct the defense of The Menace under certain conditions and under those conditions only:

That The Menace should allot as much space as is necessary for the organization of The Free Press Defense League.

That The League should in all things have the support of The Menace and its publishers.

That The League should not confine its activities to the defense of The Menace but that it should be devoted to the bigger, broader battle, of which the effort of the Roman hierarchy to stifle The Menace is but the opening gun.

I felt the need of a permanent, nation-wide, broad-scoped, thoroughly equipped organization which should be always on guard when our freedom was in danger.

**T**HE editors and publishers of The Menace readily agreed to the plan and The Free Press Defense League came into being. As the first contribution to the cause, I waived all rights to any fee for conducting the defense of The Menace or any remuneration for the time expended in directing the organization of The Free Press Defense League.

We have been operating for several weeks, and more than ever I realize the need of such an organization. From every corner of the country come letters telling

of boycotts, the destruction of business and even persecution in social life through the instrumentality of the Catholic politicians who thus set the laws of our country at naught.

With contributions came circumstantial accounts of wrongs that had been practiced upon the donors and warnings, born of bitter experience, of dangers that threaten us all. I came to understand what most of you already knew—that a few more years of lethargy upon our part would mean that the control of American institutions would pass to the Roman hierarchy which is bent upon the destruction of those institutions. "Rome never sleeps." The Knights of Columbus, recently, as stated in every Catholic newspaper in the country, at one meeting appropriated \$50,000 which, it is well understood, is to be used in driving such papers as The Menace out of the United States mails. That other huge sums are being raised by other Romish societies there is no room to doubt.

Opposed to this highly organized force is The Free Press Defense League. It can be made the most powerful champion that ever came to the defense of American liberties. But to accomplish this most necessary end, The League must have the support of every patriot who reads these lines.

We should have one million members and a war fund that will shock the enemies of American liberty.

We should have that million members and that war fund before the federal court opens in Joplin, Mo., on June 14.

In one way only can this stupendous task be performed—let every man and woman who reads The Menace go loyally to work soliciting members and contributions for The League. It is not enough that you yourself should contribute as liberally as you feel able. You should go outside the circle of Menace readers, spread the gospel of liberty and induce others to unite with us in this work for the common good. There is no reader of The Menace that cannot secure at least a few members for The Free Press Defense League, if he will but present the matter earnestly to his friends.

**W**E HAVE hundreds of letters which say: "We will contribute more if it is necessary." To these contributors I say: "Don't wait until you see that it is necessary or until you are called upon again. Send now what you can well afford and urge all others whom you can influence to contribute and to aid in enlisting new members."

We have received many contributions from patriotic societies, Masonic bodies and lodges of Odd Fellows. For these contributions we are grateful. The co-operation of organizations of this kind means much for the performance of the great task before us. But the work in this direction is only begun. You who know so well the bitter need of the services which The Free Press Defense League is to render should go to members of these organizations and impress upon them the necessity of making a success of our great undertaking.

Masons and Odd Fellows should see to it that the matter is brought forcibly to the attention of members of their lodges.

Each of you who is a church member should speak to his pastor, showing him the necessity of helping to arouse the people to the needs of the hour. Tell him that other ministers are already enlisted for the conflict and are doing heroic work.

Do not overlook the superintendents and teachers of your public schools. They know or should know what Rome means to do with the public schools of America. If they do not know, it is your duty and privilege to inform them.

**E**ACH of you does his or her duty as loyally as the officers of The Free Press Defense League, there will be no doubt as to the result of this campaign.

We cannot afford, America cannot afford, humanity cannot afford to allow this organization to fail. Realizing this fact, I have put aside practically every other thing in order to give my time and thought and all my resources to this fight. I do not ask other lovers of liberty and fair play to do as much, but I do make this personal appeal to each of you,—to give as much as you can of money and service to this great cause.

We now have 5,880 members. We have received in contributions \$9,443.84. In both membership and money, this falls far short of what we must have. This fight must be won and it must be won by a militant organ-

ization, huge in membership and generously supplied with funds. This is a nationwide battle and patriots everywhere must do their part. We are facing Rome now and the battle is no mere skirmish.

Each week hereafter we will publish the number of members and the amount of money received. We will do this in order that each of you may know just what progress is being made in forming this great organization. Every dollar will be accurately accounted for and each contributor will receive a membership card showing, among other things, the date and amount of his payment.

Get on your fighting clothes, take your place in the battle line and watch these figures climb.

**T**HERE will be no publicity of names, but I hope that the time will soon come when anyone and everyone can join any lawful organization without the fear of persecution. If this League becomes the great factor I expect it to be in the affairs of the American people, the day will soon be at hand when all men and women can freely utter their convictions and worship as they see fit. It is pitiful to know, as I now know, that there are hundreds of thousands of people in the United States who, for fear of loss of business or even loss of life, hesitate to exercise their inalienable and constitutional right of speaking that which they believe and worshipping as they choose. Even the old soldiers—both Union and Confederate—men who have faced death unflinchingly and who cannot be called cowards, write to tell us what hardships they have undergone for their convictions and what dangers threaten them and other patriots who dare oppose Rome. Yet we speak of America as a free country. Yet there are those who believe that it is free!

We now have forty-five days in which to complete our work. This is sufficient time if each of you will do all that you can to help The League secure members and contributions. This is "everybody's movement." Among our contributors are business men who loom large in their communities, men who work for small wages by the day, professional men, men who are out of work, women who earn their living by washing, athletes and invalid "shut ins"—all find a common ground here in this movement for the common good.

Everyone of you can give something; everyone of you can get a few members for The League. Some can give much, others but little, but all can give something. We want no one to contribute if his or her contribution means hardship. We do want, however, to keep all of you thoroughly acquainted with the movement, its object and its progress, that each of you may give according to your ability and your desire.

The time has come when it must be made impossible to indict men who have violated no law, but who have rather rendered their country and their kind a patriotic service.

The time has come when it must be made impossible for men to be mobbed or murdered because they have dared, against the wishes of a foreign potentate and his satellites to speak to the American people on matters permissible under American law.

The Free Press Defense League is national in scope and permanent in nature. The weakest and least conspicuous citizen of the country, if oppressed by the enemies of the country, will be given the full protection of the law and all his rights will be procured for him by the work of our permanent legal bureau.

As soon as The Menace case is disposed of The League will be incorporated and the permanent organization perfected. Remember that the name of no contributor will be made public except at his own request and that no one will be liable to assessment or to further payments than those which he makes voluntarily.

**R**EMEMBER also that The Free Press Defense League attacks no man's religion. Neither is it to be heard inveighing against the publications of any sect. It believes that the Catholics have a right to say in their newspapers or anywhere else anything that they believe to be true of Protestants, providing it is not libellous. The League believes also that the Catholic is entitled to worship as he chooses. It has the same respect for the Catholic's religious convictions that it has for the religious convictions of all other men, be they Protestant, Jewish, Mohammedan or what not. A man's religion, The Free Press Defense League believes, is strictly his own business. All that the League insists upon is that no man's religion shall interfere with another's and that whether a man be Catholic or Protestant, Jew or Gentile, he shall have the right to publish or to read newspapers that reflect his views.

At the conclusion of the enrollment of members on June 14, a committee of widely known patriots, whose names will be to you a guaranty of their good faith, will audit our books and publish a sworn statement of receipts and expenditures, in order that you may know how much money has been received and what payments have been made. We will be as economical as possible and every dollar paid out will mean at least a dollar's worth of service.

Each of you, men and women, have your work cut out for you in this fight. The task is too great, the work of organization too stupendous, to permit the officers to write each of you an individual letter. But this letter is personal to each of you. As soon as you have read it, go out among your friends and neighbors and tell them of the necessity that confronts us and our country. Secure their contributions and send them in. A little time given to this work each day will accomplish astonishing results.

Let us put our heads and our hearts together. Let us each go to work and not stop working until this campaign has closed at midnight of June 14.

J. I. SHEPPARD, Secretary Free Press Defense League  
Fort Scott, Kans., April 27, 1915.

### THE BULLETIN BOARD

Total number of members of The Free Press Defense League received up to April 23, 1915..... **5,880**

Total amount of money received by The Free Press Defense League up to April 23, 1915..... **\$9,443.84**

#### AFFIDAVITS

State of Kansas,  
Bourbon County.—ss.

W. T. Seagraves, being duly sworn, says: I am cashier of the Peoples' State Bank of Fort Scott, Kansas; there has been deposited in this bank to this date by The Free Press Defense League a total of \$9,443.84.

W. T. SEAGRAVES,  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of April, 1915.

ELSIE FREEMAN, Notary Public.

My commission expires on the 3rd day of May, 1918.

State of Kansas,  
Bourbon County.—ss.

C. P. Frey, being duly sworn, says, since the organization of The Free Press Defense League began, I have had charge of the membership books and there have been enrolled to this date 5,880 members of said League.

C. P. FREY,  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of April, 1915.

ELSIE FREEMAN, Notary Public.

My commission expires on the 3rd day of May, 1918.

(Cut out and mail this coupon with your contribution TODAY)

### THE FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE

FT. SCOTT, KANSAS

WILBUR F. PHELPS, President J. I. SHEPPARD, Secretary

I hereby make application for membership in The Free Press Defense League and I enclose \$..... as my contribution for the purposes of the League

I understand that in consideration of this contribution, I am to receive a receipt and membership card. Also that after the first year I am to have a voice in the management of the organization and in the election of officers.

Name .....

Street or Rural Route .....

Postoffice .....

State .....

(Send all contributions intended for The Free Press Defense League to that organization at Ft. Scott, Kas., J. I. Sheppard, Secretary, and not to THE MENACE.)